

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 14 1975

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ACTION SCSE-00

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-05 L-02 H-02 FBIE-00

NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1177

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 3328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, AR (TALAMANTE, DLGA)

SUBJECT: W/W: ARRESTS; STATUS REPORT

REF: STATE 108903 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONGEN AND CONSUL MET WITH WINGLASS AND MCCAUGHAN MONDAY
12 MAY 75 TO TRY TO ASCERTAIN THEIR DESIRES AND HOW THE EMBASSY
COULD BEST BE HELPFUL TO THEM. THE DISCUSSION WAS CORDIAL AND,
IT IS HOPED, USEFUL. JUN 03 1975

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Signature:

2. THE EMBASSY ARRANGED FOR THEM TO MEET WITH JUDGE IPPOLITO ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON. CONOFF ACCOMPANIED MCCAUGHAN AND WEINGLASS TO AZUL IN AN EMBASSY VEHICLE AND INTRODUCED THEM TO THE JUDGE, WHO RECEIVED THEM GRACIOUSLY. AT SAME TIME JUDGE REITERATED TO CONOFF THAT "OUR DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN", ANY TIME INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION IS DESIRED THE EMBASSY HAS ONLY TO CALL HIM OR DR. HANSE. HE THEN PRODUCED OLGA TALAMANTE, HERSELF, WHOM HE HAD BROUGHT TO THE COURT FROM THE PROVINCIAL JAIL.

3. JUDGE IPPOLITO INVITED WEINGLASS, MCCAUGHAN AND TALAMANTE TO CHAT "IN ENGLISH OR SPANISH AS YOU DESIRE" AND AFTERWARDS HE WOULD BE AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO DISCUSS CASE. AT THAT POINT CONOFF, AFTER THANKING JUDGE FOR HIS USUAL CORDIALITY, PREPARED TO RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES. (WEINGLASS AND MCCAUGHAN CHECKED INTO THE GRAN HOTEL AZUL AND WILL SPEND AT LEAST ONE NIGHT IN THAT CITY).

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4. BEFORE LEAVING, HOWEVER, CONOFF SPOKE WITH DR. HANSEN WHO SAID THAT CASE WOULD BE IN HANDS OF FISCAL ON FRIDAY (PARA 2 E, BUENOS AIRES 0254) AND FURTHER EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT, UNLESS SOMETHING UNEXPECTED HAPPENED, THE MINIMUM SENTENCE WOULD BE DICTATED BEFORE THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL HOLIDAY (JULY NINTH). IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT JULY TENTH WILL BE EIGHT MONTHS FROM DATE OF GROUPS ARREST (PARA 5, BUENOS AIRES 3872 OF 6 DEC 74).

5. DR. HANSEN EXPRESSED THE PRIVATE OPINION THAT EVEN THOUGH THE JUDGE EXPECTED TO ORDER THE GROUP'S RELEASE EIGHT MONTHS AFTER DATE OF ARREST EVEN THOUGH ARGENTINE IMMIGRATION HAS ISSUED AN "EXPULSION" ORDER TO TAKE EFFECT WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF JUDICIAL RELEASE, HE BELIEVED THE EXEC TIVE POWER WOULD ORDER CONTINUED DETENTION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY POWERS GIVEN THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE UNDER STATE OF SIEGE CONDITIONS. WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN AWARE THAT FURTHER DETENTION WAS A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A POSITIVE OPINION ON THE MATTER HAS BEEN EXPRESSED TO CONOFF BY HANSEN.

6. JUDGE IPPOLITO TOLD CONOFF THAT AT LAST ATTORNEY ABRAHAM PEREZ HAS PROPERLY PETITIONED AND HAS BEEN ACCEPTED TO REPRESENT THE GROUP BEFORE THE COURT. HE HAS YET, HOWEVER, TO APPEAR IN PERSON BEFORE THE JUDGE. IN THE MEANWHILE, OF COURSE, DR. SASTRE ABELLA, THE DEFENSOR DE PROBRES Y AUSENTES HAS CONTINUED TO PLAY THE ROLE OF THE DEFENDING ATTORNEY.

7. EMBASSY WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN DURING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MCCAUGHAN AND WEINGLASS THAT AT NO TIME HAD THEY CONSULTED WITH ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF SCA/SCS ON THIS CASE. INDEED, MCCAUGHAN, WHO HAS APPARENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT REGULARLY WITH THE DEPARTMENT SINCE SOON AFTER THE ARREST OF SUBJECT ON 10 NOV 74, INDICATED TOTAL LACK OF KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH AN ORGANIZATION EXISTS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. CONOFFS FIND THE ABOVE EXTRAORDINARY AND EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ENLIGHTENED. DEPARTMENT WILL BE INFORMED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE AS THEY OCCUR.
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C. C. Petnam

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Castillo, Olga (AKA)
AP
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